

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 /077 W

-----063573 251257Z /43

R 251017Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4484

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, CB, TH

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN TROOPS ATTACK BPP OUTPOST IN SURIN PROVINCE

REF: BANGKOK 16109

1. ACCORDING TO THAI PRESS REPORTS, A FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 100 CAMBODIAN TROOPS INTRUDED ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS INSIDE THAI TERRITORY IN SURIN PROVINCE AND ATTACKED A BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) OUTPOST DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JULY 24. FIVE BPP TROOPERS AND FOUR THAI CIVILIANS (INCLUDING TWO SMALL CHILDREN) WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THE ATTACK. THE ATTACKING FORCE WITHDREW TO CAMBODIAN TERRITORY BEFORE THAI BPP AND MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED AT THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT. FIGHTING REPORTEDLY ENDED BEFORE DAYLIGHT OF JULY 24.

2. IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT NEAR ARANYAPRATHET IN PRACHINBURI PROVINCE, THAI AIR FORCE OV-10'S AND HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS REPORTEDLY CONTINUED TO STRAFE SUSPECTED CAMBODIAN TROOP POSITIONS IN THE BORDER AREA JULY 23-24 FOLLOWING A CLASH BETWEEN THAI AND CAMBODIAN FORCES ON JULY 21 (REFTEL).

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AN RTA AFTER-ACTION REPORT PUT THAI CASUALTIES DURING THE JULY 21 FIGHTING AT 17 KIA AND 48 WIA.

3. THE ATTACKS IN BORH SURIN AND ARANYAPRATHET OCCURRED IN AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN SCENES OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE PAST. EMBASSY OFFICER WHO TALKED WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SA-NGAT CHALOYU AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI RATTAKUN

ON JULY 24 REPORTS THAT THAI LEADERS ARE AT A LOSS TO
EXPLAIN WHAT HAS PROMPTED THE CAMBODIAN ATTACKS. THAI
PRESS REPORTS THE RTG IS PLANNING TO PROTEST THE
ARANYAPRATHET INCIDENT TO THE CAMBODIAN LIAISON OFFICER AT
POIPET BUT HAS, THUS FAR, BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT CAMBODIAN
OFFICIALS.
BURKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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